dynamically obtaining by the client device at least one alert detection parameter from a first server;

dynamically obtaining configuration data from a remote alert proxy using the at least one obtained alert detection parameter; and

automatically configuring the client device using the dynamically obtained configuration data.

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6. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one alert detection parameter is requested by the client device from the first server.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the at least one alert detection parameter is requested by the client device using the options field of a dynamic host control protocol (DHCP) message.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein dynamically obtaining by the client device the at least one alert detection parameter further comprises dynamically obtaining at least one of an alert destination address, a watchdog interval, and a heartbeat interval.

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11. (Amended) In a first server, a method comprising:

receiving by an alert proxy, a configuration data request from a client device, the configuration data request being submitted by the client device using at least one dynamically obtained alert detection parameter; and

providing the requested configuration data to the client device to enable the client device to be automatically configured.

12. (Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one dynamically obtained alert detection parameter is dynamically obtained from a second server.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one dynamically obtained alert detection parameter includes at least one of a dynamically obtained alert destination address, a watchdog interval, and a heartbeat interval.

19. (Amended) An apparatus comprising logic to:

dynamically obtain at least one alert detection parameter from a first server;

dynamically obtain configuration data from a remote alert proxy using the at least one obtained alert detection parameter; and

configure the apparatus using the dynamically obtained configuration data.

20. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the at least one obtained alert detection parameter includes at least one of an alert destination address, a watchdog interval, and a heartbeat interval.

22. (Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a machine readable medium having a plurality of machine readable instructions stored thereon, wherein when the instructions are executed by a processor, the instructions subscribe the processor to:

dynamically obtain at least one alert detection parameter from a first server;

dynamically obtain configuration data from a remote alert proxy using the at least one obtained alert detection parameter; and

configure a device containing the processor using the dynamically obtained configuration data.

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24. (Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 22, wherein the at least one obtained alert detection parameter includes at least one of an alert destination address, a watchdog interval, and a heartbeat interval.
